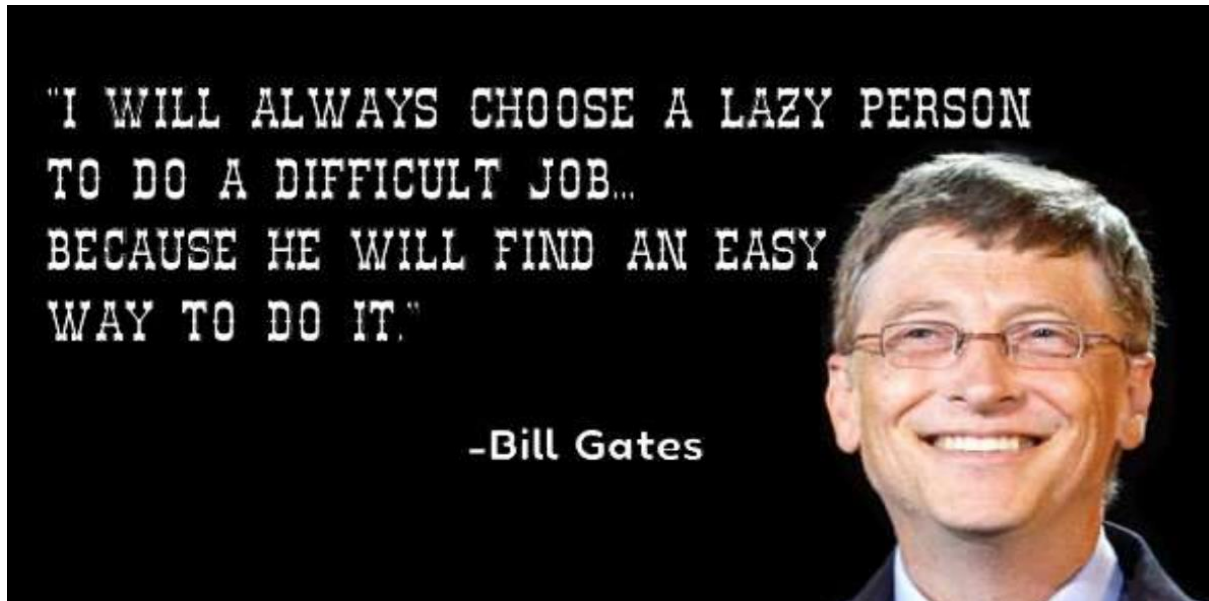


Self-Learning Guide to MQL4 Programming



Keys to being a Good Programmer

Some people may think that great programmers are those who can churn out great products/robots/code in double quick time (maybe even with no help from documentations or online sources). However, in our course, we believe the most important thing for a programmer is that he/she can solve problems independently (with documentations and online help of course).

A few key ingredients are important:

1. The ability to understand the problem/project he is trying to solve/complete.
2. Knowing what he/she needs to solve the problem.
3. If he/she doesn't have the info/skillset, he knows how to acquire them.

Well there are other skills that are good to have too (eg. Proper naming, writing efficient and neat code) but we won't go into that now.

3 Ways to be an Independent MQL4 Programmer

Method 1: Learn to self-learn – Google it

Most of the problems that you face have been asked and answered online. The key is to google the right questions.

Google search in this format: mql4 "Your Problem/Error Code" solved

Your answer is usually found in the first 5 results. If it is not, you are probably asking the wrong question. Answers are usually found in forums (eg. mql4 forums, stackoverflow) or documentations (docs.mql4.com).

At times, questions with answered solutions have the word "Solved" in their title. Hence, we insert the word "Solved" in our search query. Finding those threads with "Solved" in the title will save you time as you won't have to read through layers of replies, only to realise that the question is not answered.

Method 2: Understanding the Overview

Understanding the overview of MT4, the editor and programming language entails:

1. Understanding (roughly) what MQL4/MT4 can achieve.
2. Understanding (roughly) how to code/achieve point 1.

This will allow you to solve problems/errors as you understand what can be done and how to go about finding solutions to it (back to Method 1). This is the classic: "You must know what you don't know" phenomenon.

Understanding comes from experience, but there are ways to hasten this process.

3 ways to do this:

1. Glance through the documentations to get a feel of MQL4.
2. Google around to find out the capabilities and limitations of MQL4.
3. Download and study others' work. There are many free robots/indicators/scripts online.

Alternatively, in your MT4, go to Terminal Window/Code Base and simply download EAs from there.

Method 3: Frame a question accurately

There is sort of a standard way to ask programming questions online to yield the best results:

How to ask good questions: <http://stackoverflow.com/help/how-to-ask>

What is the minimal amount of code I should provide: <http://stackoverflow.com/help/mcve>

These sources relate to other types of programming language but it applies to MQL4 too. Long story short:

Bad Question: "My EA doesn't run. Help!"

Good Question: "There are no errors when I compile my EA. I can run the backtest but no trades were fired. The Journal states that there is an Ordersend Error 134 – which means 'Not enough money'. I checked my codes but I can't figure out why. Here is my position sizing code along with my default extern variables:

'Insert codes here'

Many thanks for helping!"